

BURNED TO DEATH

Frightful Scenes at Hotel

Fire in Iowa.

TEN BODIES IN RUINS

More Than Forty Persons

Seriously Injured.

TWO WILL SURELY DIE

PANIC-STRICKEN GUESTS LEAP

FROM WINDOWS.

Street Filled With Men and Women
Bruised, Battered, Broken-Limbed
and Half-Crazed.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa, February 20.—Ten lives, according to the best information obtainable under difficulties, were lost in a fire which this morning destroyed the Clinton Hotel in this city.

The fire started at 2:30 o'clock, and at 10 o'clock the heat from the smoldering debris was so fierce that search for bodies was impossible.

Two persons were fatally injured and probably two more injured more or less severely, mostly by jumping from windows.

The list of dead may prove larger than the number given, but it is hoped that the information which accounts for all but this number is correct.

The task of learning the names of the dead is rendered difficult by the loss of the hotel register, which was burned.

The Injured.

The fatally injured: Vina Burns, head waitress, jumped from third story; L. C. Burnett, Nebraska City, Neb. badly burned.

The seriously injured: Sinda Williams, waitress, face badly burned, leg injured; Lizzie Kelly, waitress, burned; C. C. Gurt, Center Point, Ia., arm sprained; hands burned; Emma Smith, waitress; H. W. Bremer, Lyons, Iowa; P. R. Moore, Chicago; George Tamm, St. Paul, Minn.; J. W. Winniger, Waterloo, face burned and wrist sprained; J. E. Anderson, Chicago, badly burned; J. P. Haines, Des Moines; G. Gardner, Woodburn, Iowa; D. F. Taylor, Davenport, Iowa, head injured and elbow fractured, hip injured and burned about hip; Louis Thompson, Cedar Rapids, badly burned; A. M. Larsen, Osceola, feet injured and lungs hurt; J. W. Roberts, Cedar Rapids; J. O. Vernon, Delta, Iowa, cut on right side; May Beel, waitress, badly burned; N. P. Hoover, Tama, Iowa; T. J. Zully, Canton, Ill.; J. A. Elar, Davenport; C. L. Hendrick, body burned; G. P. Haines, Des Moines; F. O. Redmond, mail clerk, Tama, Iowa; N. O. Tompkins, Monticello, Iowa; George Tamm, St. Paul, Minn.; face burned; James Lewis, colored porter, P. Gardner, Woodburn, Iowa; D. S. Taylor, Davenport; J. M. Dunbar, Monticello; John W. Lewis, attorney, Minn.; C. C. Gurt, Cedar Rapids, terribly burned while going to fire escape, probably fatally; P. E. Haines, Des Moines, jumped from third-story window, leg broken and injured internally, probably fatally; W. H. Williams, waitress, badly burned; C. P. Hamberg, attorney, Iowa; J. E. Keeser, Walker, Iowa, face and hands burned; C. A. Roseman, Independence, Mo., legs and arms sprained by jumping from top floor, struck wires and landed in a snow bank; F. A. Chase, hands injured.

A Veritable Fire Trap.

The hotel, a three-story brick veneer structure, is said to have been a veritable fire trap.

The flames started in a pile of rubbish in the basement, presumably ignited by defective electric light.

The night clerk was on the third floor when the cry of fire, raised by a bellboy, startled him.

He took up the cry and in an instant the hallways were choked with frightened guests.

A rush was made for the stairways.

It was then that the crowd already collected in the street heard the shrieks of anguish and desperation, for the fire, feeding ravenously on the tinder-like material of the lower floor, had completely cut off escape.

Stamped for Windows.

There followed a stampede for the windows, the only means of exit left.

The street below was filled with a crowd scarcely less frantic than the despairing ones in the fast burning building.

"It was like a Dore picture of Inferno sent to life," said one spectator, describing the scene.

"The flames, looking blood-red from reflection against the snow, lit up the pale, drawn faces of the people in the windows with the glow that was unearthly."

The victims were literally driven by the flames to jump.

Nearly every one of them lingered to the last moment, urged by the people below to wait as long as possible in the hope of assistance.

One After Another Jumped.

Then a cry would tell that the fire had reached some one or the smoke had made it impossible to breathe, and one after another jumped to the street, and some, more fortunate, to the roofs of buildings adjoining.

In a short time the street was filled with men and women, bruised, battered, broken-limbed and half-crazed.

All were in their night garments.

At an hour St. Luke's Hospital contained fifteen injured, while many more, chiefly those who had escaped with comparatively slight hurts, were being cared for in buildings near the scene of the disaster.

Some who jumped over their lives to the ground, their falls were broken by telegraph wires which intervened in their downward flight.

Stumbled Over Bodies.

A number of the guests who were able to converse calmly following their escape declared that they stumbled over prostrate bodies as they made their way to the windows.

The flames literally were choking them, and the smoke made it almost impossible to breathe.

The proprietor of the hotel placed his estimate of the loss at \$100,000.

Many of the guests were delegates to the state convention of the Young Men's Christian Association, which began here yesterday.

Stood Barefoot in Snow.

Those who were first to escape, where they were not too severely injured, stood for some time barefooted in the snow, chained to the spot and rendered unconscious of the cold by the horror of the scene.

Many of them had to be led away.

The bodies of Mr. A. Howry and an unknown woman were taken from the ruins shortly after 11 o'clock. The bodies were frightfully charred.

No. 15,597.

WELCOMED BY DIAZ

Mexican Monetary Conference Begins Its Labors.

MEXICO CITY, February 20.—The Mexican monetary conference held its first session yesterday and was addressed by Finance Minister Limantour.

It then organized with Pablo Macedo as president. Committees were appointed.

After finishing its business the members of the conference proceeded to pay their respects to President Diaz, who wished them success in their labors.

The next meeting will be held Saturday.

MGR. JAMES McDERMOTT DEAD.

For Forty-One Years He Was Rector of Church at Glens Falls, N. Y.

GLENS FALLS, N. Y., February 20.—The Rt. Rev. Mgr. James McDermott, for forty-one years rector of St. Mary's Church, Glens Falls, died today.

He had been in an enfeebled condition since June last. Monday he submitted to a surgical operation, but died the next day. He was born in Ireland in 1830, educated at Baltimore, and ordained a priest in Albany in 1862.

In December, 1901, Pope Leo, in recognition of his services in the interest of Catholic education in the United States, conferred upon him the honorary title of apostolic, which carried with it the title of monsignor.

BURIED THE RECORDS.

Pathetic Story of Suffering Brought Out by Suit in Court.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 20.—Behind a decision handed down by the United States court of appeals in the case of R. D. McDoughall against the Northwestern Commercial Company there is a pathetic story of suffering.

The case was brought by McDoughall, who recovered judgment in the second district of Alaska. The appeal was taken to the appellate court.

All the papers were sealed in a box and given in charge of Charles Low, who started overland from Nome for Seattle. In the party were Low, Dr. Miller and a man named Griswold.

The box containing the records was reached Dr. Miller perished from the cold.

The others decided that their only hope was to reach Seattle to leave their incomprehensible records in the hands of a lawyer, but they were unable to get any further.

An effort was made to perfect the records from memory, but it was ineffectual, and the court was forced to dismiss the appeal because of the incompleteness of the records.

CHINESE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Celestial Merchants of Frisco Will Petition Legislature.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 20.—A movement is on foot among the Chinese merchants to force admittance for their sons to the public schools.

The Examiner says that it has been decided to petition the legislature to amend the law which restricts the Chinese youth to the Chinese public schools.

The Chinese fathers of native sons declare the exclusion of their sons from the public schools is not only unjust, but at variance with the Constitution of the United States.

ANOTHER EXPLOSION VICTIM.

Two Others Injured at Fort Lafayette Will Likely Die.

NEW YORK, February 20.—W. H. Van Gurt, an ordnance man, who was severely injured in the explosion at Fort Lafayette yesterday, died today, making the fifth death as the result of the accident.

He regained consciousness before he died, but was unable to give any explanation as to how the explosion occurred.

Nearly every one of them lingered to the last moment, urged by the people below to wait as long as possible in the hope of assistance.

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STEAMER IN TROUBLE AT SEA.

Bristol City Liner Was With Disabled Craft When Sighted.

NEW YORK, February 20.—The Star line steamer Bovic, which arrived here today from Liverpool, reports that February 17, in latitude 40.50, longitude 65.43, she passed a steamer with two short masts, and one funnel, apparently stopped, with a Bristol City line steamer by.

There were two Bristol City line steamers due at this port, the Brooklyn City from Swansea and the Bristol City from Barry.

The Bristol City was spoken February 16, in latitude 40.38, longitude 65.13, by the Italian steamer Sardegna, which arrived February 18, and the Brooklyn City was spoken February 18, in latitude 40.32, longitude 66.06, by the North German Lloyd line steamer Kronprinz Wilhelm, which reached this port yesterday.

The Bristol City line steamer reported by the Bovic probably was one of these vessels.

INTERNATIONAL LAWN TENNIS.

English Association Issues a Challenge to America.

LONDON, February 20.—G. R. Mewburn, secretary of the English Lawn Tennis Association, has dispatched a challenge to America for the international tennis championships.

Both the Dohertys have promised to participate if they are wanted, but the representatives of the English association will not be selected until after the championship games here.

Mr. Mewburn anticipates that the matches will be played on the Boston courts.

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1903—SIXTEEN PAGES. TWO CENTS.

SMOKED OUT AND SHOT

Negro Kept Fifty Policemen at Bay for Hours.

NEW ORLEANS, February 20.—After holding half a hundred policemen at bay for several hours, during which scores of shots were exchanged, Lafayette Sims, a desperate negro, was killed by the police early this morning in a negro boarding house in South Rampart street.

The room in which he was besieged had to be set on fire and the fire department called out before Sims could be driven from his post.

As he attempted to escape, still carrying his gun, he was shot down.

The body was taken to the morgue without any demonstration from a mob of several thousand negroes who crowded the vicinity of the tragedy.

Trouble Had Trivial Origin.

The origin of the trouble was trivial.

Sims occupied a room in the boarding house in which there were seven beds.

On retiring last night he locked the door, and when the landlord early this morning asked him to open it so that another lodger might be admitted Sims refused.

Then the landlord sent for the police.

The police entered the room, opened the door and found a hole was smashed in it.

Through the aperture Sims began shooting. One bullet knocked a pistol from the hand of an officer, and another shattered the lantern which the officer carried.

House Surrounded by Police.

Thereupon additional police were sent for and the house surrounded.

When the reinforcements had arrived the negro landlord and an officer again went to the room and pleaded with Sims to come out and surrender.

"No, I won't," he answered, with an oath. "I'll shoot if you don't go away; I am not going to leave here. They'll burn me in oil."

Sims had piled some of the furniture in the room against the door, and was prepared to fight to his death.

As the landlord and the officer retreated the desperado fired at them, without doing any damage.

Decided to Smoke Him Out.

All efforts to induce the prisoner to surrender having proved ineffective, Supt. J. J. McLaughlin decided that nothing was to be done but to smoke the negro out.

An alarm was turned in and a portion of the fire department brought to the scene.

A quantity of cotton oil and sulphur was sent for, the cotton rolled into balls and saturated with sulphur, and the blazing substance hurled into the room, every avenue of escape being guarded.

Nearly Suffocated.

The furniture in the room caught quickly, filling the place with smoke and flame. Sims hung onto his hiding place until he was nearly suffocated and then made a break to escape.

As he appeared at the door Patrolman Fred Smith fired at him.

The negro staggered, mortally wounded. Instantly the policemen fired at him and he fell dead.

The flames extinguished the flames, and the body was dragged out and taken to a lane of excited negroes to the police station.

Had Officer's Revolver.

Examination of the room following the tragedy showed that Sims had gotten possession of Officer Windstein's revolver after shooting it from his hands.

But looking at his work as the representative of Venezuela, dispassionately, the State Department officials, one and all, do not hesitate to speak in terms of high praise. 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